Celebrate Safely!


Fireworks are an exciting part of every Fourth of July celebration, but with the colorful displays comes the potential for injury. Every year, hundreds of people end up in the emergency room due to injuries caused by the improper use and handling of fireworks. It’s important to be prepared, be safe, and be responsible when enjoying fireworks. Use the fun activities in this guide to help you learn more about fireworks and how to celebrate safely this Fourth of July!

*cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks
Be Prepared!

Prepare for a fabulous Fourth of July this year! Can you find three “paths to preparedness” in the maze below? These three important steps will help you have the best Independence Day celebration on the block!

1. Great job! You found the path to a legal fireworks stand. The first step in being prepared for a fun Fourth of July is to purchase legal fireworks from a licensed outlet only.

2. Way to go! You found the path to a safe celebration where fireworks are stored out of the reach of children. Only adults should light fireworks.

3. You did it! The third path leads to happy pets! Fireworks can scare animals, so prepare to keep your pets safe by keeping them indoors during the show.

Family Fireworks Fun

Plan ahead! Make a “Fourth of July Family Plan” for your celebration following the steps above. Go over the plan with your family members and guests so that everyone is prepared for a fun, entertaining, and safe Independence Day!

*smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/14-fun-facts-about-fireworks-180951957/
Be Safe!

Americans love celebrating our independence with fireworks. But did you know they were invented in China thousands of years ago?* The earliest known fireworks were created by mixing saltpeter, charcoal, and sulfur, placing the mixture inside a hollow piece of bamboo, and heating it over a fire, where it would explode with a bang!

Fireworks are only fun if you are safe while enjoying them! Become a “safety sleuth” this Independence Day by using the numbers in the chart to decode each missing word in the following safety tips. Then, be sure to follow those tips to have a fun and festive Fourth of July!

1. Set off fireworks _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ only.
   15 21 20 4 15 18 19
2. Keep a bucket of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ nearby when lighting fireworks.
   23 1 20 5 18
3. Only an _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ should touch or light fireworks.
   1 4 21 12 20
4. Light _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ firework at a time.
   15 14 5
5. Watch from a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ distance.
   19 1 6 5
6. Never _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ a “dud.”
   18 5 12 9 7 8 20

The Mandarin word for “fireworks” looks like this. Can you write this word on a sheet of paper?

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Family Fireworks Fun

On July 2, 1776, delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies voted in favor of declaring independence from Britain. The next day, John Adams wrote a letter to his wife saying that he believed this important day would be celebrated annually throughout history with parades, games, sports, and “illuminations from one end of this continent to the other.”† A year later, the first organized Independence Day celebration was held on July 4, the day the Declaration of Independence was formally adopted by Congress.

Today, we celebrate in much the same way as the founding fathers did, with games, parades, and fireworks. This year, celebrate by making kid-friendly fireworks — flameless sparklers! Check them out at kids-craft-room.com/sparkler-firework-craft-for-kids/.

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Fireworks Fact!

In 2018, about 278 million pounds of fireworks were used to light up the skies in the U.S.!”

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* interestingengineering.com/the-history-of-fireworks-from-ancient-china-to-today
** pyro.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/FactsandFigures/Fireworks%20Consume%20Figures%202000-18.pdf
† history.com/news/july-4-fireworks-independence-day-john-adams
Be Responsible!

Loud, beautiful, and fun, fireworks are at the center of almost every Fourth of July celebration. Keep your celebration safe by making sure you act responsibly when around fireworks. Stay away from matches and lighters. Pick up used fireworks. Be sure they have cooled first. Have buckets of water handy throughout the area. Soak used fireworks in water. Make sure the area is safe and clean so that everyone can have fun and stay safe this Fourth of July!

How are your thinking skills? Try solving the puzzle below. In this “fallen phrase” puzzle, the letters have slid down and off the puzzle, landing in a mixed-up order under the columns in which they belong. The three fallen phrases are sentences from the paragraph above. Can you solve them?

Family Fireworks Fun

No Fourth of July celebration is complete without food! Historical documents show us that some traditional Independence Day foods have stood the test of time, such as salad, chicken, and cake. Others, such as hot dogs, came to popularity in later years.* Today, the top foods include classic American dishes such as cheeseburgers and French fries.** What are your family’s favorite Fourth of July foods?

* foodtimeline.org/july4th.html
** newsweek.com/americas-favorite-4th-july-foods-revealed-independence-day-2019-1447163
† dezeen.com/2019/03/14/ford-noise-cancelling-kennel-design

Fireworks Fact!

A prototype has been developed for a noise-cancelling kennel designed to help dogs who are afraid of the loud noise of fireworks.
You’ve Earned Your Badge!

You’ve done it! You’ve learned how to stay safe this Fourth of July and still have a blast! Use the template below to create your own unique badge so it reminds you to Be Prepared, Be Safe, and Be Responsible.
Be Fireworks Safety Smart!

Are you savvy about fireworks safety? Imagine you are in charge of planning a Fourth of July celebration. Will your fireworks show be a dazzling display or a dreadful dud? Take this quiz to find out!

Directions: Write T for true or F for false beside each statement below, and then check your answers to see your score!

1. _____ Prepare for a safe Fourth of July by only purchasing legal fireworks from a licensed outlet.
2. _____ Fireworks should be stored where anyone can reach them quickly.
3. _____ Dispose of used fireworks by burying them in dirt.
4. _____ Fireworks should be lit one at a time.
5. _____ It’s safe for children to light fireworks if there is an adult present.
6. _____ Fireworks that don’t go off after being lit the first time can safely be relit a second time.
7. _____ Sparklers don’t fly into the air, so it’s OK to light them indoors.
8. _____ Buckets of water should be placed nearby where fireworks will be lit.
9. _____ Used fireworks can be left outdoors if it is raining.
10. _____ Fireworks should be viewed only from a safe distance.

Score: 10 correct — You are a fireworks safety expert!
9 correct — You have fireworks safety smarts!
8 or fewer correct — Brush up on your fireworks safety facts before celebrating this summer!

Fireworks Fact!
Scientists are working to create fireworks that are safer for the environment. Check it out at blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/green-fireworksevironmentally-safe-that-is/.

Family Fireworks Fun
Use your fireworks safety smarts as a family to organize a neighborhood Fourth of July party! Plan a parade, host a cookout, and bring your community together to celebrate America’s birthday in a safe, responsible, and fun way.